

AMENDMENTS

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims to the following form:

1. (Currently Amended) A ~~protective~~ cover according to claim 21 wherein ~~for a motor vehicle articulating joint, the cover having a deformable structure defining an interior space closed at both ends and including vent means coupled to the interior space, the vent means including~~ include a vent element adapted to allow air flow thereacross ~~whilst stopping contaminants and/or water entering into the interior space whereby excess air pressure within the interior can be reduced by air evacuation and aspiration through the vent means,~~ the vent element comprising a porosity calibrated Teflon PTFE material structure.
2. (Cancelled)
3. (Currently Amended) A cover as claimed in claim + 21, wherein the deformable structure is a flexible bellows.
4. (Currently Amended) A cover as claimed in claim + 21, wherein the deformable structure is secured at each end with a respective collar element.

5. (Currently Amended) A cover as claimed in claim 1 ~~+~~ 21, wherein the air pressure within the interior is maintained at a desired air pressure.
6. (Previously Presented) A cover as claimed in claim 5, wherein the desired air pressure is that of the ambient atmospheric air pressure adjacent the protective cover.
7. (Currently Amended) A protective cover as claimed in claim 1 ~~+~~ 21, wherein the vent means is located at one end of the deformable structure.
8. (Cancelled)
9. (Cancelled)
10. (Currently Amended) A cover as claimed in claim 1 ~~+~~ 21, wherein the vent element is replaceable in the vent means.
11. (Previously Presented) A cover as claimed in claim 1, wherein the vent element is adapted to expel at least some of any contaminants and/or water associated with it upon outward air movements through the vent element as the deformable structure and therefore the interior space is deformed.
12. (Currently Amended) A cover as claimed in claim 1 ~~+~~ 21, wherein the vent means is configured as a spout comprising a first portion outwardly perpendicular to the major

- axis of the cover and a second portion parallel to that major axis of the cover whereby the vent means has a substantially "L" shaped configuration.
13. (Currently Amended) A cover as claimed in claim 1, made from an elastomeric material.
14. (Cancelled)
15. (Original) A cover as claimed in claim 1, wherein the vent means is adapted to prevent lubricant escaping from the interior space.
16. (Cancelled)
17. (Cancelled)
18. (Cancelled)
19. (Currently Amended) A protective cover arrangement, comprising protective covers as claimed in claim 1, respectively secured about the ends of a steering arrangement within a motor vehicle in order to protect that steering arrangement.

20. (Currently Amended) A protective cover arrangement comprising protective covers as claimed in claim ~~1~~ 21, secured about a motor vehicle transmission joint to protect that transmission joint.
21. (Previously Presented) A protective cover for a motor vehicle articulating joint, the cover having first end, a second end, a small diameter sealing collar at said first end, a larger diameter sealing collar at said second end, a plurality of bellows turns extending between small diameter sealing collar and including vent means including a vent element adapted to allow air flow thereacross whilst stopping contaminants and/or water entering the cover whereby excess air pressure within the interior can be reduced by air evacuation and aspiration through the vent means, the vent means being a separate structure from the cover, one of said collars including material forming a radially extending hole through the collar, said material being attached to the vent means to form a coupling between the vent means and the cover.
22. (Currently Amended) A cover according to claim ~~1~~ 21 wherein the cover is formed of a material, and coupling comprises the material being disposed within the vent means to connect the vent means to the cover.
23. (Currently Amended) A cover according to claim ~~1~~ 21 wherein the coupling comprises mechanical bond.